

THE
 NUMBER OF
all those that hath dyed in
 the Citie of London, & the liberties
 of the same, from the 28, of De-
 cember 1581. vnto the 27, of De-
 cember 1582. with the
 Christeninges.

And also the number of
 all those that haue dyed of the
 plague in euery parish
 particularly.



Reuel. 14, Chap.
 Blessed are the deade that die in the Lorde,
 euen so sayth the spirite, for they rest from their
 labours.

Printed in London, by I. B. at the

THE NUMBER OF

all those who have been
of the same, from the 1st of 1781
to the 1st of 1782, with the
number of each year.

And also the number of
all those that have been of the
same in every year.



Printed by R. B. in the Strand,
near to St. Dunstons Church, in the Strand,
London.



There is deade this
yeete, that is to say, frō
the 28. of December. vi. M.
1581. unto the 27. of De- D. cccc.
cember 1582 within the xxx.
Cittie, and the liberties
of the same.

Of the Plague. iii. M. lxxx.

Christened. iii. M. D. ii.

Parishes cleare of the plague. v.

Out Parishes. CCCC. xxx.

Of the Plague. CC. xxxix.

Here followeth the Parishes
with their nombers, that hath
buried of the Plague.



A.

Alhallous Barking.	ix.
Alhallous in Broadstrete.	iii.
Alhallous the Moore.	xxx.
Alhallous the lesse.	vii.
Alhallous Honie lane.	i.
Alhallous Lombardstrete.	vii.
Athallous Stainings.	xxvii.
Alhallous in the wall.	xiii.
Albons in Woodstrete.	xvi.
Andrew Eastcheape.	xxxi.
Andrew Holborne.	lxxxix.
Andrew wardroppe.	Xcvii.
Andrew vnder shaft.	xxiiii.
Alphegh at creplegate.	vii.
Anne at aldergate.	xxxv.
Anne at B. Fryers.	xxi.
Augustine at Poules gate.	cleare.
	Auns

Aunteline in Budgeroe. clear.

B.

Bartholmew Hospitall. xiiii.

Bartholmew at the exchange. x.

Benet Fynck. xi.

Benet grace church. xi.

Benet Poules warfe. xx.

Benet shearthogg. iiii.

Brydes Parish. cxxiiii.

Buttolph Aldgate. clvii.

Buttolph Aldersgate. lxxii.

Buttolph Bishops gate. lx.

Buttolph Byllinggate. vii.

C

Christes church. L.

Christopher at the stockes. i.

Clement by Eastcheape. iiii.

D.

Dennis Backchurch. xxv.

Don-

Donstone in the east, xxxv.
Donstone in the west. xlvii.

E

Edmond in Lombard street. vi.
Ethelborow in bishops gate street. xv.

F

Faith vnder Paules. xxi.
Foster in Foster lane, iiii.

G

Gabriell fanchurch. v.
George by pudding lane. ii.
George in southwarke. lxxiiii.
Gyles at criple gate. C. lxxxvi.
Gregorie by Paules. xxii.

H

Healen in bishops gate street. vii.

I

James garlicke Hiue. xi.
Iohn

John euangelist, ii.
John in walbroke ix.
John zacharie. xxv.

K.

Katherine cooleman. xxxiii.
Katherine cry church. lvii.

L.

Lawrence in the Iurie. xv.
Lawrence pountne. xlii.
Leonard in eastchepe. lii.
Leonard toster lane. liii.

M.

Mary aldermarie. vi.
Mary aldermanburie. xxvi.
Mary abchurch. xl.
Mary bow. cleare.
Mary buttolphe. ii.
Mary cole churh. i.
Mary hill. xxvii.
Mary mownthaw. i.
Mary staininges. iiii.
Mary

Mary somerset.	xxvi
Mary wolchurch.	ii.
Mary wolnorth.	iiii.
Magnis.	xv.
Magdaline in milkestrete.	ii.
Magdaline in olde fishstrete.	xxvii.
M. r. includgate.	L.
Martine organe.	vi.
Martine outwitch.	xvii.
Martine ventre.	xiii.
Martine in Iremonger lane.	ii.
Margaret in lothbury.	iii.
Margaret new fishstrete.	xii.
Margaret pattins.	xii.
Margaret moles in friday street.	clerc.
Mathie in friday street.	cleare.
Michael in bassings hall.	xvii.
Michael in cornehill.	xv.
Michael in crooked lane.	iii.
Michael in the querne.	vii.
Michael queene Hiue.	xxv.
Michael in the Royall.	xii.
Michael in wood strete.	vi.
Mildred in bread street.	vi.
	Mildread

Mildred in the poultrie,

vi.

N

Nicholas acon.

xi.

Nicholas golden abby.

xiii.

Nicholas willowes.

iii.

O

Oliffe in hart street.

xxiii.

Oliffe in the Iury.

viii.

Oliffe in siluer street.

xvi.

Oliffe in southwarke. CCClxxxiii.

P

Pancras.

vi.

Peeter in Cheape.

iii.

Peeter in Cornehill.

xx.

Peeter Pauls wharfe.

iii.

Peeter the Poore.

iii.

S

Sauours.	Lxxii.
Sepulchres.	CCClxii.
Steuē in Colemanstreete.	xxxiii.
Steuē in walbroke.	v.
Swithine at Londonstone.	ii.

T.

Trinitie.	iiii.
Thomas Apostle.	v.
Thomas Hospitall.	xix.

I haue here set foorth the Parishes and the numbers: according as the same came vnto me in the weekly reports. And therof haue drawne the totall summe, that euery Parische hath buried of the Plague.



The causes why I haue
at this present set forth
the Parishes particularly
where they haue dyed
of the Plague.

The first cause is, for that that
it is reported in the Country, that
there hath dyed such an infinite
number here in London, as thou-
sandes in a weeke. and therefore
I haue set downe the Parishes,
for the sure iustifying of the nom-
ber, and true certificate of them,
that haue died of the Plague: that
those that see and reade the same,
may not onely be reasonably cer-
tified, but also may rebuke those
persons that haue giuen forth
such reportes.

Secondly, for that it is saide of
some, that it was but in a fewe
Parishes.

Thirldy, for \hat{p} it was amongst
the

the pooze and simplest & most basest people as beggers and such like.

Fourthly, & they were children and seruantes, and none of any countenance and calling.

Fiftly, soz that it is saide that euerý Parish hath not giuen a iust certifficat of those that died of the plague, that heere in beuwing of the Parishes and & number therunto anered, they may see & truth, and if there be any fault committed, it may be reformed.

The



The number that died
in the time of the great
Plague.
(..)

There died in London and the liberties thereof, in the yeare of our Lord 1562. from the first day of Ianuarie, vnto the last of December 1563. of all diseases, twentieth thousand three hundred, three score and twelue.

And of the Plague, beeing part of the number aforesaid: seuentene thousand foure hundredeth and foure.

Christ in the Renelation. 22.

Chap. sayeth.

Behold I come shortly, and my reward is with mee, to giue euery man according as his worke shalbe.



THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES

THE

SECOND
BY
JOHN BURNET
OF
GLASGOW
IN
SCOTLAND
AND
OF
OXFORD
IN
ENGLAND
M.D.C.C.

Printed by
J. BARNARD
at the
PRINTING OFFICE
in
ST. MARTIN'S LANE
1722.

Printed in the University of Oxford.

By J. BARNARD.

Printed by J. BARNARD, at the

PRINTING OFFICE, in

ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

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The Bills of Mortality.

The earliest Bill of Mortality, we are informed, was issued in 1562; and the next publication of the kind has been said to have appeared in 1593, from March to Dec.^r in that year, the first of the so called great plague years, - which are stated to have been 1593, 1603, 1625, and 1636: - but the Bill now before us, and which appears to have proceeded from the regular Official of the Company at the period, shews us, that such documents were published at intervals between 1562 and 1593. In those early Bills, no distinction appears to have been made as to the Causes of death, beyond the bare notice of the numbers of those who died of the Plague; indeed, they originated from the sad and earnest endeavour to check the diffusion of this dreadful, and in those days, frequent visitation. We who have lived in times of sickness, (made in circuits of similar extent and duration)

duration) can form some idea of the
mournful interest formerly attached
to the Bills; which, indeed, suffici-
ently appears, in the solemn text append-
ed to them, bearing witness to the reli-
gious impressions naturally attendant
on those visitations of God. * — At
this period, the Bills comprized 109
Parishes, without the distinction of
Within and Without the Walls; —
but in 1606, (and, indeed, before that
date) several other Parishes had
been added to that number, and
the Bills included christenings as
well as deaths: from 1604, cogni-
zance was taken of diseases and
casualties, but no account thereof
was published prior to 1629; in this
year

* The following devout allusions to the subject be-
fore us, appears in Quarles' Judgment and Mirth, in The
Plague-affrighted Man. The work was published in 1646. —
"How is the language of death heard in every street! which
be continual passing bells proclaims mortality in every ear!
How many at this instant lie groaning in their sick beds, and
marked for death; whilst others that bleed yesterday are now
laid out for evening burial! How many that are now strong
and healthful, and laying up for many years, are destined
for the enlargement of the next week's bill! x x x Shall passing-
bells tolling for dying men afflict thee, and not the judg-
ments of the living God afflict thee? Shall the weekly bills
of a simple parish clerk move thee, more than the sacred
oracles of a holy minister?" —

year the distinction was first made in those returns, as to sex.

The following Extracts from "a Collection of scarce and valuable Pieces relating to the Plague year, 1665," in possession of Library of the Corporation of London, whilst it is illustrative of our subject, may not be uninteresting to the curious reader.

"And here it will not be unreasonable to observe, that the Keeping of the Bills of Mortality began in 1592, being a year of great sickness, - and, after some disuse, was established by Order, 1603, the next year of sickness. The first of the continued Weekly Bills of Mortality commencing Oct. 29. 1603 - the first year of King James.

"These Bills are made and composed in this manner, viz. - When any one dieth, either the tolling and ringing of the Bell, or the bespeaking of a grave, intimateth it to the Searchers (who keep a strict correspondence with the Sexton) and thereupon the ancient matrons

matrons sworn to that office, repair to the place where the dead corpse lieth, and upon their own view, and others examination, make a judgment of what disease or casualty the corpse died; which judgment they report to the Parish Clerk, as he doth every Tuesday night the account of every Christening and Burial to the Clerk of the Hall: whence on Wednesday the General Account is made up and printed; and on Thursday published to the respective persons that pay for them. —

In further illustration of our subject we will now extract, from the same source,

"Orders published by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London concerning the Infection of the Plague, 1665."

Recital.

[Appointment of Examiners]

One, two, or more persons of credit appointed in each parish by the City Authorities: Such office to last two months at least: in case of refusal to be committed to prison.

[Examiners' Duties.]

Sworn to enquire from time to time, what houses be visited, and what persons be sick, and of what diseases,

diseases, near as may be: and upon doubt,
command restraint of access, until it
appear what the disease may prove. -
If they find any person infected, to give
to the Constable, that the house be shut up:
in case of neglect on part of Constable, to
give notice to the Alderman of the Ward.

[Watchmen.] To every infected house, two
Watchmen be appointed - one for night, the
other by day; to prohibit coming out of, or
going into such infected house under their
charge, under pain of severe punishment:
the said Watchmen to do such further offi-
ces as the sick house shall need. If sent
away on business, the Watchman to lock
up the house and take the key. Day Watch-
man from 10 in the morning; the Night
Watchman until 6 in the morning. -

[Searchers.] That there be a special care to
appoint Women Searchers in every Parish,
such as are of honest reputation, and of the
best sort as can be got in this kind; and these
to be sworn to make due search, and true
report to the utmost of their knowledge,
whether the persons whose bodies they are
appointed

appointed to search, do die of the infection, or of what other disease, as near as they can. And that the Physicians who shall be appointed for cure and prevention of the Infection, do call before them the said Searchers who are or shall be appointed for the several parishes under their respective cares; to the end they may consider whether they are fitly qualified for that employment; and charge them from time to time, as they shall see cause, if they appear defective in their duties. That no Searcher during the time of visitation, be permitted to use any public work or employment, or keep any shop or stall, or be employed as a laundress, or in any other common employment whatsoever."

As we before observed, whilst under the apprehension of the plague, and in the absence of other means of information on the subject, the Bills of Mortality were justly regarded as documents of public importance; and consequently a source of involvement to the Company. In 1625, when the reputation of these Returns was
fully

fully established, the Company obtained an Order under the Seal of the Star Chamber, for the Keeping a Printing-press in their Hall, for the printing of the weekly and general Bills within the City of London and Liberties thereof; for which purpose a Printer is assigned by the Archbishop of Canterbury: and on the 1st of July in that year, a printing-press was accordingly set up, and an order made, that from thenceforth the weekly reports of the Burials within the said limits should be printed, with the number of Burials against every parish; which until that time had not been done. The appointment of Printer of the Bills was duly observed whilst their publication continued: but the poor old wooden press of the earliest fashion, and such as we occasionally see represented in the devices of our early typographers, has long since gone to pieces and disappeared: when its last impression was worked off, we have not the means of ascertaining: His Grace's patronage in connection therewith, we need scarcely add, has disappeared also.

But the fear of death in the dreadful form of ^{the} plague being removed these gloomy

gloomy annuities, we may reasonably suppose, lost much of their former influence: to increase their utility, therefore, and as far as practicable, to revive their importance, - the regulated prices of two of the prime necessities of life, bread and salt, were first inserted in the Sheets for 1735. — The main deficiencies of the Bills, however, became rapidly of such extent as to render them impracticable and worthless as statistical documents. The Return of Christenings and Burials were made irregularly, and in many cases omitted altogether by those Clerks who felt no proper regard either for the public character of their Office or the Company: and, indeed, they were under little or no legal obligation to make their Returns: for we find that the Lord Mayor's ordinary fine in cases of a Weekly Non-Return amounted only to one shilling! and even in the case where a Clerk was summoned for Refusal to make any Return, whatever, he was fined but 40s. This state of things, of course, enabled contumacious Parish Clerks to escape with all but impunity from the due

due reward of their miserable neglect of
a sworn and bounden duty. — But even
had the Returns of Clerks with the Bills
of Mortality been made correctly and
regularly, such Returns would have still
been, to all practical purposes, utterly
inefficient: for the parishes of Marylebone,
Pancras, Chelsea, Kennington, and Paddington,
now forming an important portion of the Me-
tropolis, and densely populated, are not within
the Bills of Mortality; therefore they made
no Returns; nor have any been made from
St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey,
the Temple Church, the Rolls and Lincoln's-inn
Chapels, the Chapter House, the Tower Church,
and various other Places of Worship of the
Established Church: to these may be added Ro-
man Catholics and Jews, with many Sects
of Dissenters having distinct Chapels and Ce-
metries: and many Charitable institutions,
and hospitals had private burial grounds
concerning which no Returns appeared in
the Company's Bills. Many of the wealthier
classe, when they died, were removed from the Parish
in which they deceased to the Country — this of course,
added to the many difficulties we have already noticed

795

"As to the catalogue of diseases in the London, weekly bills," says Dr. Burrows, whose 'Strictures' thereon appeared in 1858, - "it is a national disgrace; and is wholly irreconcilable with our acknowledged pre-eminence in medical science and civilization: nor can effective reformation of it take place, while its content, and arrangement depend upon sources so ignorant and venal as the present. [referring to the office of Searchers]

*** Probably there is not extant in Europe, a more marked vestige of the degraded state of Medical and Surgical Knowledge in the ^{early part of the} 17th Century (the author might have included a later date) than the language and arrangement of the bills of mortality.

Considering too the learning and rank of many of the commentators on them, the improvements which have been repeatedly suggested, and the important uses to which they, with all their faults have been applied, it appears wonderful that greater reformation has not been accomplished. To account for this neglect, we must conclude, that the whole system was so radically defective, that all political writers and medical philosophers who treated of the subject; felt, that unless it could be amended in toto, it were useless to attempt in detail.

"If the weekly bills be faulty and defective, the

the General Annual Bill of Mortality which is a summary of their contents, must be consequently erroneous. It were sufficient for any person to read the catalogue of diseases in it, to be struck with its incongruities; and thence to infer that such bills are little calculated for imparting useful information. Many of the diseases are absolutely unintelligible under their present designation: Such, for instance, as Acute and Lethal, Horse-shoe Head, Overgrown Head, Rising of the Lights, &c. others are barbarous, as Overgrown, Twisting of the Guts, &c. Others, again, as Aged, Bed-ridden, Bile Colds, &c. cannot be classed, or are too indefinitely expressed, to be admitted as specifications.*

Our limits will not allow further quotation from Dr. Burrows' remarks on this head: they are much to the purpose, characterized by acute and fair reasoning, and abundantly prove that difficulties stood in the way of available Returns which could not be surmounted by the Company without the assistance of the government. In 1782.

* Strictures on the Uses and Defects of Parish Registers, and Bills of Mortality; in reference to Marriages, Births, Baptisms, Diseases, Casualties & Burials &c. with Suggestions for Improving and Extending the System of Parochial Registry.
- By George Mann Burrows, M.D. F.L.S. London, 1812.

1489, it was determined to apply for legis-
lation for regulation; and a petition to Par-
liament was accordingly drawn up -
of which the following is a copy.

To the Right Honorable the Committee of the
House of Commons in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Master, Wardens
Court of Apprentices and Brotherhood of the
Company of Parish Clerks of the Cities of
London, Westminster, Southwark, and sixteen
and twenty three out-parishes in Middlessex and
Surrey, within the Bills of Mortality, -
Most humbly sheweth,

That your petitioners were incorporated as a
Brotherhood or Company in the reign of King Charles II.
who was graciously pleased to grant his royal Charter,
impowering them (among other things) from time to time
to make weekly reports of all the births & christenings
in their respective parishes; and the sole right of print-
ing, publishing and vending the same for the public
use, as well as their own profit and advantage. That
the said Company have ever since the above period en-
joyed that privilege, and have endeavored to fulfil with
diligence the intention of the royal grant. But the great
increase of buildings, as well as private burying grounds,
in the metropolis, have of late years rendered their plan so
abortive

abortive, that it is become impossible to give any accurate account to the inhabitants, that would be useful in itself. Your Petitioners, therefore pray this Honorable House, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of the said Company, and to enable them in future to give a true and perfect weekly account of all deaths, diseases, ages, (births and marriages) within their jurisdiction.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

The heads of provisions for a Bill were also circulated. The matter, however, fell to the ground for want of funds to carry out the intention.

"In truth," says Dr Barrow, "the provisions designed were too local and limited, to meet those great and national objects which any plan for improvement ought necessarily to embrace. Nevertheless, the Company deserve credit for their anxiety, at any reasonable expence, to correct the abuses they continually witness, but which they have not the power of checking.

"Looking to the agents, through whom any general and improved system is to be carried into effect, there are none in every way so well fitted as the officiating Parish Clerks. They are always resident, which is not the case with the Minister, and are known to be selected for their religious and superior moral qualifications.

qualifications. They are likewise suited to the office by their being possessed of a requisite degree of education. To impose the duties, upon the officiating Ministers, would be perhaps too much; and would besides be diverting their attention from more serious concerns. The remuneration for the extra trouble it will occasion, although difficult, perhaps, to make equivalent to the Minister's labour, yet ought to be provided for the Clerk's, without adding to parochial burdens."

Notwithstanding the failure we have above referred to, if their endeavours to obtain legislative aid towards carrying out their intentions, - we find the Company in 1813, again applying for an Act of Parliament. A Bill was drawn up, and printed: it was entitled "A Bill for extending the Jurisdiction and Powers of the Master, Wardens, Assistants, and Brethren of the Parish Clerks of the Parish Churches of the City and Suburbs of London, and the Liberties thereof, the City of Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark, and the Fifteen Out-parishes adjacent within the Bills of Mortality, and for further regulating the same." It was sought herein, amongst other provisions, to add certain Parishes or Hamlets

Hamlets to those not were already under the jurisdiction of the Company, which were to be placed under equal obligation to make, thro' their respective Clerks, Returns of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials: to make it obligatory on each Parish Clerk, being duly summoned for such purpose, to join the Company: it also made liable to the required Returns, the Clerks of the Cathedral of London and Westminster and the Chapels connected with the Established Church, with those of Protestant Dissenters, Quakers, Roman Catholics, Jews, Hospitals, Prisons &c. —

This Bill, however, was lost, through the omission of a preliminary formality (due notice thereof, I think, was to be placed on the Church-doors) by which failure, a pointless expense of nearly £800. was incurred by the Company. Its limited means would not allow of further expenditure: but several applications were subsequently made to the proper authorities for necessary powers to carry out what was then required from the Comp^y. — promises of assistance were obtained, but proceedings therein withheld — probably with a view to the Bills then before Parliament relative to a General Registration

The

The following Extracts from the Evidence of Mr John Tilley Wheeler (then Clerk of the Comp^y) given before a Comm^{ee} of the House of Commons on Parochial Registration, 10th of July, 1833, will shew, we think, practically the desire of the Company to carry out effectually the objects of the Bills of Mortality. —

1056. As Clerk to the Comp^y of Parish Clerks, can you inform the Comm^{ee} whether their jurisdiction extends beyond the City of London? — Yes; it takes in 17 parishes in the Liberties of the City, but without the walls, — and includes the parishes in the Borough.

1057. Which are ordinarily called the Bills of Mortality? — Yes; including also 24 parishes in Middlesex and Surrey.

1058. Are their authorities derived from Charters or Acts of Parliament? — Under Charter.

1059. What is the date of that Charter? — The Comp^y was first incorporated in the 17th Hen. III. 1233; the next Charter was 4th Jas. I. The next, 15th Chas. I. and the last was the 14th Charles I.

1060. Under those Charters what are the powers with which they are invested? — We have the power to require, (if the Charter is worth anything, but there appears to be some doubt about that) the parish Clerks to make their returns to the Master & Wardens on the Tues days
in

in every week, to enable them to make a report to the Secretary of State and the Lord Mayor; the searchers, are to deliver their reports to their respective Parish Clerks, by a certain time: we have the exclusive right of issuing these bills of mortality; at the present time they are attended with a considerable loss to the Company, I mean as far as relates to the weekly bills of mort - there are not many privileges attach'd to the Com^y beyond that

1061. Upon the whole, they are not in a state of great prosperity? - No. * * * (Witness here gives evidence as to the resources of the Com^y and the emolument arising from making and disposing of Reg^y of Infant Poor)

1065. From your experience as Parish Clerk of Bermondsey, and from the official situation you occupy in the Parish Clerks' Com^y, are you of opinion the system of parochial registration is too perfect to require improvement? - No; I think it is very imperfect.

1066. Do you not think it very desirable, for the sake of the general information of the country, as well as for the general advantage of individuals, and the security of property, that many improvements should be made in the present system? - Yes; I think it is very desirable.

1067. - The Comm^{ee} will be happy to receive the suggestions of any improvements wh^{ch} may have occurred to you. - I have not the vanity to suppose any suggestions of mine will be worth notice; but I have made ^a memorandum

of

of several things which occurred to me. [The witnesses here made several suggestions, in the course of an examination of some length: for these, however, our limits will not admit: but they were to the point; and we know were the results of much earnest inquiry and consideration: those interested in the matter, under notice we refer to the Report itself: and we pass on to 2. 1075.]

1075. You would propose that the diseases should be more scientifically classified than they are at present?

— Yes; the bills of mortality used to be made, perhaps, in a very ludicrous way; they are made somewhat better now. This is the last year's bill, and these (producing them) are half a dozen of the weekly bills; we have them for about 150 years, bound up. I do not know that there is one week's bill omitted during that time: we make a report weekly to the Secretary of State.

We are enjoined by our Charter to make a report to His Majesty, and do so regularly; it is taken from the weekly reports of the several parish clerks.

1076. It appears that some of the parishes are left in blank? —

— Yes; that is in consequence of their omission: sometimes they will go on for three or four weeks together; but they are all included in the yearly returns.

1077. Those reports are made from the reports of searchers, who are utterly incompetent to give correct information,
and

and frequently receive most fallacious reports. — Yes; but if a medical man was to be employed in each parish, it w^d be attended with a great expense: it is attended here with no expense, the poor people pay nothing: the searchers demand 1/6 of the more respectable.

1078. You think it might be possible to establish searchers of respectability and that then not only the number of deaths, but the diseases might be ascertained wth useful accuracy? — I have no doubt of that.

1079. Do you think, looking beyond the bill, of mortality, the parish clerks of England are competent to perform those duties?

— There may be a doubt upon that subject: but if they had a duty of that kind to perform, I think the clergy w^d be more circumspect in appointing persons to that office.

1080. — Is the appointment in the clergy uniformly? — Generally, but not always; there are some parishes in London who have the appointment of their parish clerks.

1081. Confining yourself to the bills of mortality, you think no objection w^d arise on the ground of incompetency in the parish clerks.

— I think not, and I have suggested, that the clergyman and the clerk shall, after registration, compare the certificate sent by the medical man, with the entry, as well as to compare the copy of the entry therewith.

1082. Would not that throw a considerable portion of the labour on the clergymen of populous parishes? — No; I think not, because the clerk w^d register, and it would be
under

under the control of the clergyman.

1083. While your plan might be convenient for the bills of mortality, do you think it could be made of universal application? When you consider the illiteracy and incompetency of a very large proportion of the parish clerks in country parishes? — I think it could: a parish clerk ^{for} should be able to read and write, and there could be no difficulty if a clergyman appointed a person who was unable to write, he ought to have no objection to assist him. I think it to be desirable that the parish clerks within the bills of mort^y should take part in the registration; the parish clerks c^d then procure correct returns, which appear to be desirable.

1084. The Comm^{ee} you are aware, are to recommend a plan which is to comprehend the Country? — Might they not recommend a plan embracing the bills of mortality, and a distinct system for the rest of the Country?

1085. You mean to say, you think this plan would be applicable to the whole country, but that the officers to perform these duties within the bills of mortality might be the parish clerks? — Yes; if a general registry were established in the metropolis, the Hall of the Comp^s might be a very excellent place, being so very central.

1086. In what place is it situate? — In Wood-st. Cheap^{re}, we let a part of it; but if it was required for the purposes now under consideration, it might be so used.

1086. Is it of sufficient magnitude to include a permanent

permanently for the whole of the understood district?
— Probably it would.

1088. Is it not surrounded by buildings, and liable to fire? — Yes; it is in part surrounded by buildings; but I think it might be altered, and with ease, so as not to be in danger from the surrounding buildings, and it might be made fire-proof, by an alteration of the roof.

1089. You think, as an universal metropolitan register, it might be obtained on terms not unfavourable to the country?
— I think so; the parish clerks are now losing by the weekly bills; but the profits on the yearly bills nearly compensate them.

1090. There is no profit except from the sale? — No; and I suppose we do not receive 40s. a year from the weekly bills, with the exception of £15. a year from the City; and it costs the Comp^y nearly £100. and from that loss and burden, we should be gladly relieved, as well as to apply our Hall, if thought suitable, for a general Registry.

The object of these Notes on the Bills of Mort^y is to shew, that the failure of the institution cannot be justly attributed to the Company under whose management they were placed: for we had neither the available ^{support} of Governments nor the equally necessary aid of science for rendering the Bills either regular or correct: and though refractory individuals

individuals, and members of the Comp^y brought dis-
credit thereon, by their culpable ommissions - yet we
trust, enough has been cited to convince an impartial
reader that the Comp^y, as a Corporation, have spared nei-
ther labour nor expense in their endeavours to fulfil
the duties entrusted to them. But they could not
carry out such an evident impossibility as available
returns under such powerful disadvantages: And
even had the Comp^y succeeded in their views - the
rapid progress of Society in our own days, would
probably have rendered the burden and responsibility
too great for so small a company: but this of course
is mere surmise, nor is speculation on the subject at all
necessary. The "Bills of Mort^y" in connection with our
Fraternity, take their place among the things of the past.
Our task is nearly ended, but little remains to be
told. In Oct. 1850, it was Ordered by the Court, that
the printing of the Yearly Bills be discontinued:
and in Oct. 1858, the Company received notice
from the Corporation ^{of London} declining the Annual pay-
ment (above referred to) of £15. The Master & Wardens
were requested by the Court to examine the Comp^y's docu-
ments in reference to such payments: this was accordingly
done. There did not, however, appear any evidence that
any claim thereon could be sustained on part of the Comp^y,
nor did any thing shew that its Charter would be
affected by the withholding Returns from the State and
the City. This was reported at a Court held on
the 21st of January, 1859; and the making and returning
the Weekly Bills were Ordered to be discontinued.

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